Hib. 7. 680. 4

A True

RELATION

Of the Extraordinary

Thunder and Lightning

Which lately happened in the

NORTH

As it was sent to *Dublin* in several *Letters* to

Persons of Quality

With the sad Effects of the Fall of a

CLOVD.

Printed in the Yeare 1680.

Newtown-Stewart the 29th of *June* 1680.

THere has happened near this place so strange and sad an accident, that I think the like has been seldom known; On *Saturday* last about 10 of the Clock in the day, we heard much Thunder, which 15 miles from hence made many great breaches in a Mountain, and such spours of water fell upon the places so broaken up, That the Flood hurried the loosened earth with it to the bottom, and swelled a brook which ran there (and which comes into the River by this place) so suddenly and so high, that it carryed away all that stood before it; people who lived near the bank had not time to get out of their houses, but with Goods, Houses and all were swept along with it and perished, the beasts that fed near it were lost, the very fish were stifled by the earth which the currant brought with it; great quantities of Salmon, of Trouts, Lampreys (which I never saw here before) even the Eeles that live in mud were choked and thrown dead upon the shore. And I do not believe there is one fish alive in the River, from the Mountains to the Sea. My curiosity took me yesterday to the place where this new kind of Deluge began, and truly I was amazed to see a Mountain torn in above 10 several places, and all the low ground by the River for 10 miles together covered with the Ruins, the Corn fields buried, & the people proking in the mud and earth for the bodies of their Friends, & of their Cattle; I cannot yet learn exactly how many have perished, but by the accounts that are given, there are lost in several places 50 Souls and abundance of Cattle.

SIR,

A Prodigious accident fell in *Monterlony* on *Saturday* the 26th of this Instant *June*, a Thunderclap forced the bowels of a great mountain belonging to one *Gloud Hamilton*, after which ensued the fall of a prodigious Cloud, which entring the Cavities of the said mountain made by the Thunder, Its weight bore the greatest part of the mountain before it, which made such a deluge of puddle, that that part of it which fell into *Glenally*-water that runs towards *Newtown-Stewart*, drowned 19 persons in their houses, turned

87—1454

turned the whole vallies for 8 or 9 miles in length that were meadows and Corn into a Desert of Dirt a foot thick; and hath killed all the fish in the River for 20 miles in length, the other half of this Cloud fell into the *Row-water* that runs through the County of *Londonderry*, has drowned 31 persons and forced away the *Stonebridg* at *Limavady*.

Londonderry the 30th of June 1680.

I Presume you will have the following newes more at large than here I give you. On *Saturday* last happened a very great Thunder with Hail and Rain in these parts but especiall about 16 or 20 miles from hence, insomuch that it hath not only tore up a Mountain of near 200 Acres but the Cloud breaking thereon, hath carried all the surface of the Earth in that compass into all the Rivers round about; but withall hath carried away several houses and Families, insomuch that of Men, Women and children already above thirty corpse found, & many more is believed to be lost. Of a suddain the waters rose between the Mountains 14 fathom high. In that part where the Mountain was, one Woman was left alive, who gave an account of the Dreadfulness thereof, which she saith was as well by Hail-stones of an incredible bigness as by the Vast Cloud coming down at once, that she by a wonderfull providence escap'd, and had it been in the night many hundred persons more had been destroyed as well as their houses & great numbers of Cattle drowned. All fish for several miles up the River are destroyed by the blackness and muddyness of the water which the surface of that mountain made, of Salmon above 7 or 8 hundred found already dead on the shore, of Eeles and all other small fresh water fish infinite numbers destroyed, that it is nor cannot be believed in those Rivers one fish is left alive, Tis too tedious to relate the whole matter, But it is as dreadfull to this Countrey as you can Imagine, by being much worse than I here give you.

New-Hall

New-Hall the 28 of *June* 1680.

ON *Saturday* last about 12 at noon, it began here to Thunder & Rain, which continued for 3 hours inceſſantly, the River ſwelled ſuddenly, and did ſo overflow all the banks, and coming down ſo impetuouſly it brought with it an infinite deal of Timber, Sticks, Straw, and Rubbiſh, which gathering together at the ſide of our New Bridge, & having no vent, it overthrew, and there is not one ſtick left. I underſtand ſince that the Thunder began above *Dongiven*, and there a Thunder bolt fell upon a hill and tore it down, which mingling with th Rain, it rather fell like a great ſpout, and came tumbling upon a houſe belonging to *Aveny* O *Cahan* the Father of *Shane* O *Cahan* the Tory, and in a moment overthrew it, & carryed all away with it, and *Aveny* with his wife and five Children & four Friends were drowned, with all their Cows, ſheep, and Horſes, and among them a Child in a Cradle, which Cradle, with many other houſehold goods and Timber of houſes did help to choak and overthrow the Bridg. A boy told me that he ſaw the thunder bolt fall, which with great flames and flaſhes tore the ground, and all the day after none could go near the place for the ſmell of Brimſtone; he ſayes there fell alſo hailſtones of a ſtrange ſize and ſhape, ſome like pieces of Candles, ſome like great buttons with ſharp points; within a few miles of that place 18 perſons were found drowned in one heap, and ſeveral about *Newtown-ſtewart*, But the miſchief is not yet all known. After this it is a ſmall thing to tell you all the meadows about this town are ſpoiled, and all the Corn from hence to the River mouth, and which is wonderfull about *Derry* and *Colraine* was nothing, but an ordinary ſhower at *Maherae*, and there abouts clear weather.

FINIS.